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HISTORY

OF

The Page Platter,

FROM

1629 TO 1902.

COMPILED BY

ADELA PAGE THORNE,

3336 WASHINGTON AVE.

ST. LOUIS.

1902.

1676525

THE PAGE PLATTER.

A History of the Venerable Platter Which Has Been so Long Owned and Pre- served by the Page Family.

For the benefit and pleasure of the present generation of our family, I have studied into the genealogical history of our mothers in their ancestral order. Tracing back the maternal line as shown by the initials carved upon the old family platter which recently came into my possession. In ancient times there were nations that traced their descent through the female line. All property belonged to the mother, the children were hers alone and she retained her maiden name. I will call this work of mine a survival of the primitive matriarchate.

I commenced with grandmother Deborah Page, and from the records I found that her mother was Hannah Curtis, who was the daughter of Hannah Linfield (for whom Aunt Hannah was named). Hannah Linfield was the daughter of Elizabeth Vinton and the grand-daughter of Rebecca Fenno.

This corresponds to the old initials on the platter that belonged so long to grandmother Deborah Page.

The initials are: R. F.; E. V.; H. L.; H. C.; D. P.; H. L. C.

The earliest item on the records relating to this matter is the birth of Rebecca Fenno, 1610, and that of John Fenno, 1629. He is the father of the R. F. (Rebecca Fenno) the first one named on the platter.

Tradition declares that this platter was brought from London in 1635, on the ship *Truelove*, by Rebecca Fenno (mother of John Fenno). She was born in England in 1610. She came to this country

in 1685—age 25. She is said to have been the grandmother of the Rebecca Fenno—number two—who was born in Milton in 1662, and who married Dependence French, and who was our grandmother's great-great-grandmother.

I have found absolute proof of this relationship in various church registers and court documents, back to 1629.

Rebecca Fenno—number two—was the daughter of the before mentioned John Fenno who was born in 1629. It is said that he was the son of the Rebecca Fenno who came over on the ship Truelove, though I have not been able to find proof of the relationship between John and Rebecca, Senior. Everything else is on record.

Whether Rebecca Fenno, Junior, received the platter from her mother, (the wife of John Fenno,) or from her grandmother who came from England, will never be definitely known, or whether she purchased it from some neighbor who brought it on another ship. I can go no further back than the records. At some future time it may be that older papers will be found.

Rebecca Fenno, Junior, had her initials engraved on the platter, then she bequeathed it through successive generations by the maternal line. It bears the initials of each owner. It has lately been engraved by its present possessor, and now bears the later names and dates, as well as the coat-of-arms of the family. The list of names as it stands now is:

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Rebecca Fenno married Dependence French | 1688 |
| Elizabeth French, daughter, married Samuel Vinton | 1729 |
| Hannah Vinton, | " " David Linfield, 1749 |
| Hannah Linfield, | " " William Curtis, 1781 |
| Deborah Curtis, | " " Samuel Page, 1812 |
| Hannah Page, | " " Edward Cole, 1871 |
| Adela Page, | neice, " Edward Thorne, 1870 |
| Mabel Thorne, | daughter, " Willard Wright, 1897 |
| Dorothy Wright, | " |

John Fenno, the father of Rebecca Fenno, number 2, the supposed son of the Rebecca, number 1, of the

Truelove, lived in Milton. He was a young man while Rebecca, senior, was a middle aged woman. She was born in 1610, and he in 1629. They were neighbors, and were closely associated together; they took up land in Milton at the same time and the fact that he named his daughter after her leads the chroniclers to assume that they were mother and son. It is reasonable to conclude this was the case, though I have found nothing in the church records to prove absolutely the relationship.

In 1660 John Fenno was granted 20 acres of land in "Unquity"—as Milton was then called—he built on this land immediately. The Dorchester records have an entry like this: "We have laid out and staked the way two rodd and halfe broad, from the meeting-house at unquitie, from John Gill's land and Robert Redman's land to John Fenno' house leading to the way to the Blue Hills".

John Fenno was a farmer, and a soldier in King Phillip's war in 1675. He died in Milton April 17, 1708, aged 79. It was from this record that we are enabled to calculate the date of his birth in 1629. It is supposed that he was born in England, coming here with his mother in 1635. In his will dated August, 1702, he refers to his property "in Lancashire in ye Realme of England".

It is said that "The Fenno's were an important family in that county in England".

One of the Blue Hills was always called Fenno Hill until recently, it was changed by the Metropolitan Park Commission to that of Kitchamskin Hill.

Rebecca Fenno, senior, was granted by the town of Dorchester "68 acres of land in Unquity", which two years after was incorporated as the town of Milton, where the name of Fenno is still found. The church record states that "she was admitted into the Milton church and that she died June 12, 1690, aged 80 years."

THE FAMILY.

THE FIRST GENERATION.

JOHN FENNO, the father of Rebecca (whose initials are the first on the old platter) was born 1629, died 1708.

His children, all born in Milton, were:

REBECCA, born Sept. 23, 1662, died July 1741. She married Dependence French of Braintree.

John (2), born Aug. 29, 1665. He built a house on Farm Street near Ponkipog Pond, Canton, in 1704. The house is still standing.

Elizabeth, died young.

Joseph, born Sept. 1, 1670. Of him his father wrote: "My son Joseph formerly went to Canada in an Expedition against the common enemy since which time I have never heard of him."

Benjamin, born Feb. 4, 1673.

Mary, born July 31, 1677, married to James Babcock of Milton. They moved to Conn.

Elizabeth, born Mar. 31, 1680, married to John Waldo of Windham, Conn. They lived in Boston.

Ephraim, born Jan. 20, 1682.

THE SECOND GENERATION.

REBECCA FENNO, born 1662, married 1688 to Dependence French, born Mar. 7, 1648.

Children were:

John, born Mar. 10, 1689, married Mary Vinton.

Dependence, born Apr. 15, 1691, married Anne Thayer.

Rebecca, born May 12, 1694, married John Thayer.

David, } twins, born Mar. 4, 1698. The church
ELIZABETH. } record states that they were "both born
in one daye and hower." Elizabeth married
Captain Samuel Vinton.

Rebecca Fenno French gave the platter to her second daughter, Elizabeth, who was the great-grandmother of our grandmother Deborah Page.

Rebecca Fenno's initials are the first on the old platter.

Dependence French was the son of John and Grace French. He was born in 1648. He had four brothers and two sisters. When he married Rebecca Fenno he was a widower, his first wife having been Mary Marsh of Braintree.

He was a "viewor of fences for Manaticutt" that is, he was a surveyor of highways. He also "gathered in arrears of Towne Rates" and was "Tythingman for the town of Braintury". It is on record that "Dependence French as Selectman doe require you in her majties name to warne all y^e ffreeholders—". Again it says: "Warne y^e all to meet at y^e meeting house in Brantry on Munday to do any Town buiseness "

Dependence and his son built the "house for the Town stock of Powder and Bullets."

The name of French was, in 1257, spelled "le Franc". The historian says that "the name runs

through good families with and without titles." Arthur French was raised to the peerage. There is mentioned in Randolph records, a "Luther French, gentleman," also families of French.

The birth of Dependence French is thus registered: "the sonne of John and Grace his wiffe was borne the 7th mo. 1, 1648." His father was born in England 1612, and was admitted freeman in 1644. He resided in both Dorchester and Braintree. "40 acres of land at Mount Wollaston were granted him in 1629 by the town of Boston."

His grandson lived in Randolph—Wales French—father of General John French.

(See Thayer's Memorial.)

THE THIRD GENERATION.

ELIZABETH FRENCH, daughter of Dependence and Rebecca Fenno French was born Mar. 4, 1698, she married Mar. 22, 1720 O. S.—1721 N. S. to "Captain Samuel Vinton, gentleman," he was born May 3, 1695.

Children were:

Samuel, born 1721, at Woburn.

Elizabeth, born 1723, married 1st Niles. 2nd Mann.

David, born 1725, married Ruth Damon.

Rebecca, born 1729, died young.

Above record in Woburn, the rest in Braintree.

HANNAH, born 1732, June 12, married Aug. 24, 1749, to David Linfield.

Captain John, born 1734, married Hepziah French.

William, died in infancy 1738-9.

Elizabeth French Vinton gave the platter to her third daughter, Hannah. E. V. her initials are the second engraved on the list.

Captain Samuel Vinton was the third son of John Vinton of Woburn, born May 3, 1695. He married Elizabeth French who was the daughter of Dependence French, Jr., and Rebecca Fenno French. They were married in Braintree Mar. 22, 1720-1721, O. S. by Reverend Samuel Niles. The Vintons lived mostly in Randolph which then was the South Precinct of Braintree. The records state that they bought lands and that "Capt. Samuel Vinton was a very large landholder."

On "June 1, 1743, Samuel Vinton of Braintree, 'gentleman,' sold 13 acres of land on the county road from Braintree to Bridgewater."

A great many of his deeds are recorded in surrounding towns in Charlestown, Bridgewater and Woburn. (See Old Braintree Records, Vol. 1.)

It is written that "Samuel Vinton devoted himself to agriculture." His father was a "bloomer"—worker in iron—and taught his trade to his sons. He bought the Braintree Iron Works.

"He was a stout, fleshy man," and was called "stern, severe, and wealthy."

Vinton was originally a French name; it was borne by a nobleman five hundred years ago who was canon of the church of the Rheims. The name appeared in 1397, the time of Edward II, and in 1060 the time of King Edward the Confessor.

The first John Vinton appeared in the Colony 1648, aged 28. His eldest son, John, was born in Lynn, 1650; he spent his life in Braintree. When he died he gave to his son Samuel "five pounds in passable money" and all of his real estate. To John he gave his interest in the Braintree Iron Works and his "silver cup and one silver spoon flowered on the bottom."

John Vinton's family were originally Huguenots (French Protestants) who were persecuted by King Charles IX, 1574, by Henry III and their successors. They fled to England and later joined the Puritans.

Capt. Samuel Vinton was elected in Braintree to office:

1730, Surveyor of Highways.

1737, Treasurer.

1738, Tythingman.

1742, He was selected for "Fish Com tee "

It is recorded that "he paid the highest tax of any man in town." His son was a Captain in the Continental Army.

(See Vinton Memorial.)

His wife was grandmother Deborah Page's great-grandmother of whom we all have heard mention. She was a lady in every sense of the word. She descended from the English Puritans. Her people were of higher standing than most of those about

her; she was better educated than the most of her neighbors and is spoken of as a gentle lady. She was very well known on account of the importance of the various offices held by her husband. All this can be found by those who care to look through the old town books at the Boston Public Library or at the New England Historical Rooms.

Josiah Vinton married Anne Adams, a cousin of President John Adams; they were close friends and it is written that "the President was a visitor at Vintons."

The first Governor of Massachusetts married Eunice Vinton.

Thomas Vinton, brother of Samuel, married Elizabeth French, he was said to have been a man of handsome property. He had a negro slave named "Toby."

In the Vinton record I find Hannah Vinton mentioned as owning "a massive clothes chest of solid oak with panels, highly ornamented and some *poster plates*." Also "a massive oak table and oak chair of antique pattern." Her son-in-law is mentioned as being unusually gifted "possessing Henry's Exposition of the Bible in six large folio volumes, likewise Willard's Body of Divinity, books that were not common among planters."

Captain John Vinton, son of Samuel and Elizabeth, was Captain of "Train-Bands and Justice of the Peace." He was in office under the King, but when trouble began "he raised companies of Minute Men for the Continental Army. He was bold, fearless, independent, with not a little family pride."

"The Braintree Iron Works and Saw-mills were the glory of the Vinton family."

There is a hill in Lynn named for this family, "Vinton Hill."

THE FOURTH GENERATION.

HANNAH VINTON. born June 12, 1732, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Vinton, married Aug. 24, 1749, to David Linfield.

Children were:

Samuel, born July 28, 1750; died Jan. 13, 1752.

Lieutenant David, born Oct. 19, 1752; married Esther French.

Samuel (2), born April 28, 1755, married Betty Porter.

HANNAH, born Oct. 13, 1757, married William Curtis of Stoughton.

John, born Dec. 1, 1759; died in infancy.

Elizabeth, born April 10, 1762, married Adonijah French

Rebecca, born Oct. 1, 1765, married John French.

William, married Zilpah Hayward.

Benjamin, born June 27, 1771, married Mehitable French.

The register of HANNAH VINTON reads "y^e Daughter of Sam^l Vinton and Elizabeth, his wife, was born y^e 12th of June 1732."

Hannah Vinton Linfield gave the platter to her daughter Hannah. H. L. her initials are the third engraved upon its rim.

David Linfield was born July 13, 1736. I find the name often spelled Linsfield in the early days. It was quite a considerable family, and mention of them is found all through the records.

David Linfield was for ten years "Fence Viewor" (surveyor of highways). In 1769 he was constable at a salary of forty shillings. He was also Warden and "he was on the Committee to instruct the Representative" from the Town of Braintree. Later he was again elected constable, but he declined and "he

presented Spear to serve in his stead," it was allowed, "Provided s^d Linfield Lodge a Bond with the Town Treasurer therein obliging himself to Indemnifying the Towne from suffering by the s^d Spear's default in s^d office, to sarve in the insuing yeare."

David Linfield, Jr., was Lieutenant in the Continental Army.

I might mention that where there are two dates they refer to Old Style and New Style, when the Calendar was changed.

Also that the *ye* which we so frequently see in old manuscripts never at any time meant simply *ye*, it was a common abbreviation for *the*, then in use. It was introduced the same as we now so commonly use *ok* for all correct. Merely a trick of the times for the sake of convenience.

THE FIFTH GENERATION.

HANNAH LINFIELD. daughter of David and Hannah Linfield married William Curtis of Stoughton, of the Major Curtis family, June 12, 1781.

The "Intention of marriage was entered March 10, 1780."

Children were:

William, born June 12, 1782.

David, born 1783, (Mrs. Julia Richardson of Brockton the father of) Mrs. Tourtelotte of Providence.

John, born 1784, died 1786.

Hannah, born 1786, married Jason Wentworth 1805.

John, born 1788.

Ephraim, born 1790, married Eliza Wales 1817.

DEBORAH. born 1792, married Samuel Page March 2, 1812.

Betsy, born 1795, married Rev. George Winchester 1816.

Dorothy, born 1800, married Stephen Holbrook 1803.

Hannah Linfield Curtis gave the platter to her second daughter, Deborah. Her initials H. C. are the fourth.

William Curtis, Jr., was a Revolutionary soldier. He was the son of William Curtis, also Jr., who was the son of William Curtis, Sr., and Deborah Wales Curtis, of Stoughton, who married about 1751.

Deborah Wales was the daughter of Deacon Thomas Wales born 1689, South Precinct of Braintree, "he was Ruling Elder." Deborah Wales was the grand-daughter of Nathaniel Wales of Dorchester, Shipwright, who came to New England on the James from Bristol 1635 with the Rev. Richard Mather. He was the ancestor of the greater part of the Wales family of that section.

(See Young's Chronicles.)

Samuel Page was, for years, a devout member of the Orthodox church. He had an exemplary life. He devoted his time to agricultural pursuits. Page Street which runs from north from Avon towards Stoughton was named for him. I have a few pictures left of the old homestead and shall be pleased to send copies to those descendants who may care for them.

The name Wales, you will observe, belongs to both branches of the family. William Curtis, senior, married Deborah Wales, grandparents of Deborah Curtis Page, and Mary Wales married Charles Page, parents of Samuel Page.

Charles Page, father of Samuel Page, was born Mar. 28, 1750, O. S.; he died Jan. 2, 1831. He married Mary Wales, born Feb. 20, 1771; she died Sept. 12, 1806.

Children were:

Rebecca, born 1776, married Samuel Talbot.

Hannah, born 1778, married Thomas Tolman.

Betsy, born 1780, unmarried.

Charles, born 1784, unmarried, died 1841.

Polly, born 17 - , married Joseph Tolman.

SAMUEL, born Nov. 6, 1790, married Deborah Curtis, Mar. 2, 1812.

William, born 1799, married Esther Spear.

Joanna, born 1806, married Ezekiel Holmes, died 1884.

A clock belonging to Charles Page is still in existence and in good condition. At his death it passed into the hands of his youngest son, William, who married Esther Spear. From him it went to his son Elisha who married Almira Wightman, sister of the then Mayor of Boston. At the death of Mrs. Elisha Page it became the property of her daughter, Miss Elizabeth Page, who resided in Dorchester. At her death in 1902, it was given to her brother, Elisha Page of Richburg, North Dakota, who also has the old family Bible belonging to that branch of the family.

Thomas Page, father of Charles Page and grandfather of Samuel, (our grandfather) was married to Sarah Robbins 17—.

Children were:

CHARLES, who married Mary Wales, born 1750.

Thomas.

Joseph.

Ebenezer, died young.

Libbeus, married Sussannah ———.

Sally, married ——— Rhoads.

Polly, married ——— Welds.

Anna, married ——— Ellis.

Lieutenant Page, the ancestor of these (so the records state) "was a gentleman of ability and wore a full-bottomed wig." One record says that he married the daughter of Elder Brewster, but I have not been able to verify this statement.

William Thomas Page, the second son of Samuel and Deborah Page wrote some very beautiful poems. He wrote many odes for the various church celebrations. His eldest daughter is Mrs. W. F. Maltby of Stoughton. She has a son Elmer who is in business with his father. The oldest son of William was wounded at the battle of Bull Run and died in New York. His fourth son, Warren, is a prosperous physician in Providence. He left two other sons, Elmer and Andrew, who bear the reputation for honesty and integrity that belongs to the descendants of the Puritans. Andrew's eldest son came home to die after having served with the army at Manila. His youngest daughter was a lovely Christian character; she died in early womanhood leaving two children. Her son is at present in the U. S. Army in the Philippines. Granville, the third son, died young leaving a widow and children.

The third son of Samuel and Deborah Page was John Brooks. He moved with his family to New York and was established in business. He was a successful merchant as well as a Christian gentleman. His eldest son, John, settled in business in Providence. The second son, Bartlett, entered into partnership with his father and still continues at the old place a successful merchant; he has a daughter Lillian, who is a leading worker in the W. C. T. U. of New York. Samuel, the third son, died young, leaving a widow and two daughters. The youngest son, T. C., is in business in Florence, Massachusetts, and has two daughters. The daughter of his second wife, Mrs. Captain Fish, died young leaving one daughter, Manilla.

Charles Curtis Page moved his family to the far west and is now, at this date (1902), the only living child of Samuel and Deborah Page of Stoughton. Charles had two children, and is now in Kansas.

Moses Curtis Page, the youngest son of the old couple, moved to Colorado. He had four sons and three daughters. His sons settled on land in Colorado. One of his daughters is teaching school in that state; another is living in Massachusetts, having married Elmer Porter of Brockton.

The eldest daughter, Caroline, married Abram Jones of Canton. They had two children, Augusta, who died young and unmarried. The son, Abram, also died in the prime of manhood; he left a widow and two children. His son Charles is in business in Stoughton, and the daughter, Mabel, is one of Stoughton's school teachers. She has accomplished a great deal in an educational way.

Hannah, the youngest daughter of Deborah Page, married Edward Cole and spent her life in Stoughton. She died leaving no children.

Samuel Wales Page, the oldest son of Samuel and Deborah Page, was born July 23, 1814. He died in

1874. He led an exemplary life and was highly respected by all who knew him. He retained close connection with the church throughout his entire life. He was prosperous and was ever a helpful and willing friend to his younger brothers and their families. His loss was deeply mourned. His widow, Betsy Ford Page, lived with her two children in St. Louis. She died at the advanced age of 83, having high standing in the church circles with which she had been closely associated. During her life in the West she was identified with the temperance movement, and during the Civil War she labored to relieve the suffering soldiers in the various hospitals about St. Louis.

THE SEVENTH GENERATION.

Hannah Linfield Page, daughter of Samuel and Deborah Page, is the seventh in line from John Fenno of Milton. She married Edward Cole of Stoughton, and died childless.

Her initials are H. L. C. and are the next in line on the platter. As there were no children of this union the platter passed into the hands of the only daughter of her eldest brother—Adela, daughter of Samuel Wales Page. This is the first break in the direct maternal line since the daughter of John Fenno had her initials carved on the old heirloom.

This gives to the platter an unbroken inheritance from 1629, the earliest date that we can authenticate, to the present date of transfer 1902.

Samuel Wales Page married in 1838 Betsy Ford of Foxboro. She was the daughter of Harvey Ford, a descendant of the Fords of Pembroke. The family united with the Howlands, William Ford having married Lucena Howland who was a descendant of John Howland of the Mayflower. Harvey Ford's father was with General Washington during the winter at Valley Forge. I have a letter written by him just after that frightful winter when those grand old men suffered so much. Before he left home William Ford had a foundry, and was expelled from the Quaker meeting because he made shoes for the soldier's horses. He then enlisted and the records at Pembroke state that he made shoes for the horses of General Washington. After the privations of that winter he came home to find his trade ruined from his having been in the service, and also, as the Pembroke

records show, the town treasurer, Elisha Tubbs, had absconded with the town funds and William Ford was on his bond, he therefore made good the amount lost to the town. Shortly after this, his iron foundry, where he made the horse shoes and nails, "as well as ploughs and hoes," was burned to the ground. He finished his life in disappointment. I mention these to show, to emphasize strongly, and bring before the younger generation the knowledge of the goodness, virtue and strength, the supreme integrity and faith in these stalwart, sturdy sons of the Puritans from whom we are descended. Life was so serious to them. It was all duty, to their families, to their country and to their God, and their lives were glorious.

In the next generation the children of Samuel and Betsy Ford Page were:

Harvey Samuel, born 1839, married in St. Louis to Helen Ayers.

Luthera Elizabeth, died in infancy.

Francena Betsy, died in childhood.

Adela Frances, born 1845, married in St. Louis to Edward D. Thorne.

Harvey Samuel Page, the eldest child, served in the civil war for three years and four months. He escaped with his life but the exposure and privations destroyed his health and he has never been fully restored. He was in the battles of Vicksburg, Champion Hills, Iuka, Corinth, Farmington, and about seven others in which the 26th Missouri was engaged. He was distinguished for bravery at the battle of Champion Hills. It was a hard and closely fought battle. Harvey was serving as Sergeant Major. The regiment was badly cut up, the field officers were killed, and under a shower of shot he passed and re-passed when all around him were falling, getting the regiment

together, and placing it under the command of the ranking Captain, who himself did not know that his Colonel had been killed. This account is on the Descriptive List of Sergeant Page at Washington. The medal of honor bestowed by a grateful government upon our brave boys for such deeds as this stand forth to testify to their honor and courage. Of deeds such as this we are proud.

Harvey Samuel and Helen Ayers Page had two children, Claradell, who died in infancy; Lois Betsy, named for her two grandmothers, is prominent in musical circles in St. Louis, having been graduated in music. She is actively engaged in church work.

Adela Page, the daughter of Samuel and Betsy Ford Page, was born in Stoughton, at the home of her grandfather. The home of her parents was Roxbury, now Boston Highlands, where they lived many years. She married Edward D. Chase Thorne of Ohio; they reside now in St. Louis. The family of Thorne was from Philadelphia. Edward Thorne's mother was a sister of Reuben Chase of Ohio; they belonged to the same family with Chief Justice Chase of Ohio. They came originally from Connecticut. This branch descended from Reuben Chase of Nantucket, one of the first officers of the Continental Navy (before it was called a navy). He served with Paul Jones on the *Bon Homme Richard* in the battle with the *Serapis* in English waters, when they took the English man-of-war as a prize. He was another one of those grand old men whom we all delight to honor; they were gems on the pages of American History.

THE EIGHTH GENERATION.

ADELA PAGE THORNE and Edward, her husband, had one child, Mabel Thorne, who married James Willard Wright of Ohio.

Adela Page Thorne was educated in Massachusetts. She has all her life been a busy writer. She has done much literary work and hopes to leave behind her, books that will be a credit to the family. Her Christian life is expressed in the work she did in St. Louis during the cholera, and also in mission work in which she has been actively engaged with her mother, her brother, his wife and daughter.

Her initials A. P. T. are now placed upon the platter following out line of inheritance. The venerable heirloom she gave to her only daughter, Mabel D. Thorne.

THE NINTH GENERATION.

MABEL THORNE was born in St. Louis where she was educated. After leaving the High School she attended the Art School and the Conservatory of Music. Later she entered the Monticello Seminary. She is distinguished chiefly by those Christian domestic virtues that best become a woman as daughter, wife and mother.

She married James Willard Wright of Ohio. The Wright family came from Baltimore. The mother of Willard Wright was the daughter of Dr. Jesse Thompson of Massachusetts, who moved West early in life. The New England strain seems to have been preserved throughout the entire family. Dr. Thompson was widely known as a man of learning and prominence. His kindness, generosity and great charity won the affection of his neighbors, as his ability as a surgeon won the admiration and confidence of the people of Southern Ohio. His grandson, Dr. Thompson Wright, succeeded him in his practice. The latter was Brigade Surgeon during the late war with Spain.

THE TENTH GENERATION.

DOROTHY PAGE WRIGHT, the little maid who has been given to us lately, is the daughter of J. Willard and Mabel Thorne Wright of St. Louis. The little lady has not been with us long, but she adds one more name to the long list which we are learning to revere. Its the earnest prayer of her grandmother that she may inherit all that was good and noble in this long line of the ladies of the Page family.

Dorothy Wright is the present holder of the platter and the last to have her name engraven on the genealogical list, in 1902.

The exact date of the first engraving on the platter is not known definitely, but Rebecca Fenno was born 240 years ago. Her grandmother, the elder Rebecca Fenno, was born 292 years ago. Whether the platter belonged to her mother or her grandmother is not known, but it is known that all the metal goods and china used in the old colonies were brought over by the Pilgrims from England. During the first one hundred years there were no manufactories of any sort there—no skilled workers in precious metals, no artisans. It is necessary to believe that the articles in use were brought by the different families each for its own use and convenience.

We shall probably never know the exact age of our old platter, but antiquarians know when this style of platter was first made, how they were made and where. It is logical to assume that ours belongs to the same date as the others. There are many that have been preserved in the various historical rooms. I am told that they are a mixture of silver and pewter.

It is the wish of the entire family that the platter be preserved as a legacy. It should pass from mother

to daughter. If there should be a break in the line of descent, it must revert to the eldest daughter of the eldest son, in order to keep the line as near perfect as possible.

The platter has lately been engraved up to date 1902, with a brief history added so the venerable record may never be lost. It also has had engraved, upon the face, a very handsome copy of the coat-of-arms of the Page family. Except for the space required for the new names and the crest, the old coloring has been carefully preserved by the jeweler. There has been a large price offered for the old relic since it has been decorated, but it is needless to say that it never will be owned by any one outside of the family.

CONDENSED RECORD.

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1—1729, John Fenno, supposed son of Rebecca Fenno, Senior. | |
| 2—Rebecca Fenno, Junior, married 1688, Dependence French. | |
| 3—Elizabeth French, | " 1720, Samuel Vinton. |
| 4—Hannah Vinton, | " 1749, David Linfield. |
| 5—Hannah Linfield, | " 1781, William Curtis. |
| 6—Deborah Curtis, | " 1812, Samuel Page. |
| 7—Hannah Page, | " 1871, Edward Cole. |
| 8—Adela Page, | " 1870, Edward Thorne. |
| 9—Mabel Thorne, | " 1897, Willard Wright. |
| 10—Dorothy Wright. | |

It was a great temptation to me to claim the eleven generations, instead of ten, for all circumstances go to show that Rebecca Fenno of the Truelove was really the grandmother of our Rebecca Fenno, but in making out this record I have adhered to the rule to insert only that which actually is proven by the records given.

In the year 1639 Francis Higginson, of London, made out a "catalogue of such needful things as every planter doth or ought to provide to go to New England," viz: "Household implements: 1 iron pot, 1 kettle, 1 frying-pan, 1 gridiron, 2 skillets, *platters*,

dishes, spoons, trenchers," etc. As none of these articles could be made in New England, there being no manufactories at that date, they all were required to have been secured in England before passage was taken.

In a list of this sort our old platter must have come, and it is reasonable to suppose that it came with the Fenno family in whose possession we first find it. It must have been prized, even in those primitive days, since the owners took the trouble to have it engraved by a jeweler.

A prominent jeweler examined the letters through a glass and pronounced them as "having been done with a fine pointed jeweler's tool." An expert handler of metals told me that the platter was wrought by hand. It was hammered out and shaped by an expert silversmith, one who worked upon the precious metals. There are no workmen, he says, whose hands are now trained to hammer metal into shape with such wonderful precision. None skilled sufficiently to shape with a mere hammer, an article like our old platter.

A Partial List of the Books Consulted.

Braintree Town Records.
Milton Town Records.
Dorchester Town Records.
Wonder Working Providence by Johnson, 1612.
Vinton Memorial.
Thayer Memorial.
History of Marshfield.
History of Scituate by Deane.
History of Concord by Shattuck.
History of Framingham by Barry.
Winthrop's Journal.
Genealogical Dictionary by Savage.
List of Emigrants from 1600 to 1700 by Hotten.
Leland's Itinerary—time of Henry VIII.
The Winton Doomsday—time of King Edward.

These and various others of not so much importance can be seen at the Historical Rooms on Somerset Street, Boston, where a very long list of books can be obtained that bear on this subject.

I found part of this data in the Boston Public Library, the rest in various places, in the State House Archives, and in the New England Genealogical Rooms, consulting various biographies, family histories, town histories and county records. I also visited several professional genealogists, and found considerable material in Brockton, Dorchester, Milton, Randolph and Braintree, and strange to say, I found in the Mercantile Library of St. Louis, a copy of the Vinton Memorial, which contains the date of grandmother's marriage and other items of her family that I was searching for. The published records are mainly taken from the probate, and registry deeds, also church records. I consulted in Suffolk county, before there was any Norfolk. In Stoughton, Avon, and Randolph when it was a part of Braintree. "The Old Braintree Records" contain much data about our family in early days.

If one has time it is quite possible to trace out with accuracy almost any family line to the Puritan days. The old records were well kept even back to the founding of the Plymouth Colony. Many of the ship records are preserved. If one crossed the water it would not be difficult to trace still further back, for the church records are faithfully kept there in the old countries.

I hope sometime to be able to prove that it was John Fenno's mother who came over in the Truelove. I hope to go to the water's edge where they all landed on old New England soil.

It may be interesting to give you the account as it stands on the register.

Rebecca Fenno, senior, from London with Robert Dennis, Master of the Truelove. Her name is on the

ship's list as having embarked on the third voyage of that ship. I copy this from the English Register: it reads:

"ye Passengers w^{ch} Passed from y^e Port of London for one whole yeare Endinge at Xp^{mas} 1635."

Again is recorded:

"These underwritten names are to be transported to the Bermoodes or Somer Islands embarked in the Truelove, in London, Robert Dennis, Master, being examined by the minister at Gravesend concerning their 'conformitie to the orders' that is, the discipline of the Church of England."

Those who went to the Bermudas, as well as those who went to New England, were compelled to "take the oath of allegiance and supremacie also conformable to order and discipline of the church of England as it now stands established."

The Oath of Allegiance.

"Oath of A Leagance and Fidelity.

You doe suare upon the Holy Evangelist contained in this book to bare true faith and Alegiance to our Soveraig Lord King Charles and his Successors and to be true and faithful to their Lords proprietyors their Successors and the governor of this Province ofas long as you shall continue an Inhabitant under the same without any Equivocation or Mental Reservation whatsoever and so help you God."

This oath was exacted of all the early Puritans who sailed directly from London. It was to escape this oath that hundreds secretly fled to Holland and shipped from the ports there. Many were punished for refusal and were obliged to hide themselves until they could make good their escape to Leyden, or some neighboring port from which they could depart in freedom and peace.

Register.

There follows in the register an entry like this:

"A Booke of Entree for Passengers by ye commission passing beyond the Seas" sailing for the New England Colonies.

In this passenger list is this insertion:

"Rebecca Fenner yerres 25, XIX Sept 1635. Ye port of London."

(This can be seen at the Boston Public Library.)

There is, by the way, a family of the name of Page on this same ship on this voyage. "Joseph Page and his wife and three children with two servants."

These lists were faithfully kept where it was possible but it is very incomplete because so many were compelled to leave their homes secretly on account of the prevailing persecutions. Men who refused to take their oath of allegiance and men liable to the payment of subsidy to the crown also left secretly. Most of the original Scroosby Congregation from Nottinghamshire, the English home of Puritanism, finally reached Holland, spending one year in Amsterdam and eleven in Leyden before coming to America.

I quote from the historian Green to show that the class of men, who were ancestors of the Puritans, were men of whom we can be more proud than as though they brought a meaningless string of empty titles with them. He says:

"They were not broken adventurers, nor bankrupts, nor criminals, nor simply poor men and artisans. They were in great part, men of the professional and middle classes, some of them men of large landed estates, some zealous clergymen".....
...; "some shrewd London lawyers or young scholars from Oxford"....."all driven forth from their

fatherland, not by earthly want, nor by the lust of adventure, but by the fear of God and the zeal for a godly worship."

Therefore it is considered that to be descended from the Puritan pilgrims is to inherit a truer nobility than to be descended from a line of kings, for ours is a nobility founded on virtue.

It may be interesting to glance over the following table, to take into consideration the number of ancestors that each one has in eight lineal generations. Not the collateral, such as aunts, uncles or cousins, nor brothers and sisters, but simply the direct parental line.

Each person has:

| | |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 2..... | parents |
| 4..... | grand-parents |
| 8..... | great-grand-parents |
| 16..... | great-great-grand-parents |
| 32..... | great-great-great-grand-parents |
| 64..... | great-great-great-great-grand-parents |
| 123..... | great-great-great-great-great-grand-parents |
| 256.. | great-great-great-great-great-great-grand-parents |

510 ancestors in all, in the eight generations.

Among the records are many interesting items which add to the picture of the times:

"Selestmen of Braintree met to draw up a bylaw for the prevention of doges coming into the meeting house in time of Public Worship."

"Publishment of marriages was set upon the foreside of the most Publick Doors of the meeting house."

"Meeting of the fireholders of Brantry";—"to determine whether Hoggs may run at large within said Towne."

Johnie cake was originally called journey-cake.

Pumpkins were pompons.

Succotash was sukquittahash.

4040

